Beach Basket Report

Sebastian Inlet District

Q4: October-December 2025

1.0 Program Summary

The Q4 2025 (October, November, December) report herein includes details for three (3) public Beach Basket stations within Sebastian Inlet State Park (SISP). Two (2) of the basket stations are located along the northern inlet shoreline, and one (1) basket station is located on the southern inlet shoreline.

The data presented in this report were collected and managed by our monitoring partners and CCinc's Beach Basket team through weekly surveys of the Beach Basket stations. These surveys include the following: recording the number of baskets present at a station along with their unique identifying codes, disposing of any debris left in the baskets, cleaning and sanitizing baskets at each station, checking the scale at each station to determine if it is in working order, and returning any misplaced baskets to their originally assigned station.

Throughout the fourth quarter, each station was monitored periodically, and a total rate of loss (ROL) of 44.4%, or four (4) baskets, was recorded. In addition, one (1) basket was replaced due to damage or old age. The replaced basket was not figured into the ROL since the ROL is based solely on baskets that are lost or stolen within the monitoring period prior to when they would be aged out of rotation.

2.0 Detailed Quarterly Report

During Q4 2025, the total rate of loss (ROL) recorded for Beach Baskets was 44.4%, or four (4) baskets out of nine (9) total baskets. During the quarter, there was one (1) interaction noted between basket stations found along the inlet and basket stations located along beach accesses within Sebastian Inlet State Park.

2.1 Detailed Observations for Inlet Stations

Within Q4 2025, two (2) stations, North Shore (NS) and The Cove (COVE), each lost one (1) basket, while the T-Dock (TD) station lost two (2) baskets. The one (1) missing North Shore (NS) basket was last seen during the monitoring conducted on October 11, 2025, while the one (1) missing The Cove (COVE) basket was last seen on December 20, 2025. The two (2) missing T-Dock baskets have not been seen since October 18, 2025. In addition, one (1) basket at the T-Dock (TD) station was replaced due to old age. These replacements occur once a basket has been in

rotation for a year or more, or if breakage or damage occurs prior to that time.

Regarding basket movement throughout the quarter, there was one instance of a Sebastian Inlet District (SID) basket moving to another station within Sebastian Inlet State Park (SISP). On this occasion, a T-Dock (TD) basket was found at the South Jetty (SJ) station. In addition, baskets were recorded as disappearing and reappearing from their home stations throughout the quarter, a clear sign that they are in constant use. Twelve “Report Your Impact" surveys were submitted during the quarter, with eleven of these surveys reporting weight for the debris that was collected. In total, at least 150.89 lb of trash was removed in Q4 2025 with the use of the SID Beach Baskets alone.

2.2 Basket Maintenance

No serious station maintenance was required in Q4 2025. Printed labels with unique IDs were placed on every new basket for easy basket tracking, along with permanent marker labels under each of the basket handles, which minimizes their exposure to the elements. As necessary, baskets that remained at these stations and transitioned from Q3 2025 to Q4 2025 had faded labels replaced for easy visibility and tracking. Furthermore, each of the stations had its signage and scale screens cleaned at the beginning of the quarter. Due to continued theft, the decision was made not to replace the digital scale at the North Shore (NS) station at this time.

2.3 Public Relations and Media Attention

Within Q4 2025, the Sebastian Inlet District was tagged in social media posts created by CCinc regarding Beach Baskets and Coastal Cleanup events. In November, a post was created that featured a video reel of The Cove (COVE) station and a Beach Basket in use along the inlet. The caption stated, “The Cove at Sebastian Inlet is bursting with life - from shorebirds to sea turtles and everything in between! Grab a Beach Basket on your walk and pick up marine debris to help protect this vibrant, biodiverse ecosystem. Every piece you collect makes a difference! The Beach Basket station at The Cove, along with two others in Sebastian Inlet State Park, is proudly supported by the Sebastian Inlet District.” That post received 2,100 views, 5 comments, 63 likes, and 7 shares on Facebook and 685 views, 35 likes, 1 comment, and 3 shares on Instagram. In December, an event flyer was created and posted to promote the quarterly Coastal Cleanup at The Cove. That post, captioned “As we head into the season of giving, let’s remember that there is no greater gift than to give back to the community by making a positive impact!,” received 899 views, 4 likes, and 4 shares on Facebook and 554 views, 19 likes, 1 comment, 1 save, and 1 share on Instagram. Furthermore, a Facebook Event was created for the cleanup, with 20 people indicating they were interested in attending and 1 person stating they would attend. In addition, the Sebastian Inlet District Beach Basket stations were featured in stories on both Instagram and Facebook at different times throughout the quarter as part of our “Beach Basket Tuesdays” series.

2.4 Coastal Cleanup Events

During Q4 2025, the Sebastian Inlet District served as a collaborator for a quarterly Coastal Cleanup at The Cove. Seven (7) participants attended the cleanup, removing 27.1 lb of debris. In all, 763 pieces of trash were collected, including 242 pieces of hard plastic, 88 cigarette butts, 69 pieces of fishing line or fishing-related equipment, 68 pieces of plastic film, 64 plastic bottle caps, and 43 straws/stirrers.

3.0 Recommendations

The following are recommendations to ensure the program continues to engage inlet-goers and remains helpful in keeping the Sebastian Inlet free of debris:

1. Weekly Beach Basket station survey submissions are recommended for generating comprehensive reports about basket use and the rate of loss.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the Sebastian Inlet District on such an impactful and useful program to protect the environment.

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COASTAL CONNECTIONS

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